

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 184156

41

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05

L-03 EUR-12 SSO-00 INRE-00 /061 R

DRAFTED BY EB/AVP:JKGORDON

APPROVED BY AF/W - MR SMITH

AF/W:DKILLION

FAA/AIA-130:ELJETT (SUBS)

AF/EX - MR SALARAR

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O R 241736Z JUL 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

FAS BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 184156

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, ASAF, AFSP, MR

SUBJECT: AIR MAURITANIE SAFETY

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1781

1. DEPT CONCURS IN YOUR DECISION. WE WILL SEND A CIRCULAR
TELEGRAM ON MONDAY TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS
ADVISING THAT OFFICIAL TRAVELLERS SHOULD AVOID USING AIRM
BECAUSE OF AIRM UNSAFE OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES.

2. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE CONTENTS OF YOUR LETTER WITH
HUGHES AIRWEST VP-OPERATIONS ED ALTMAN, IN VIEW OF
JORGENSEN UNAVAILABILITY. ALTMAN SAID HE FELT YOUR DECISION
WAS JUSTIFIED AND HE WOULD GET HUGHES AIRWEST READY FOR
WHATEVER REACTION CAME THEIR WAY.

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PAGE 02 STATE 184156

3. AFTER CONSULTING WITH FAA, WE PROPOSE A MINOR CHANGE TO YOUR LETTER. IN THE SIXTH PARAGRAPH OF YOUR LETTER, WE WOULD DELETE "ONE OF THE REGIONAL FAA SPECIALISTS STATIONED IN LAGOS OR IN BRUSSELS MIGHT PERHAPS BE BROUGHT".... AND WE WOULD SUBSTITUTE A STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT YOU WOULD BE PLEASED TO APPROACH FAA (OR TO FORWARD A REQUEST TO FAA) TO SEND AN AIRLINE OPERATIONS SPECIALIST FROM BRUSSELS OR FROM THE US TO NOUAKCHOTT TO MAKE AN

INITIAL SURVEY. FYI: THE FAA/LAGOS REP IS A SPECIALIST IN ELECTRONICS. END FYI

4. NOTWITHSTANDING OUR DESIRE TO KEEP OUR BAN INTERNAL, EXPER,ENCE HAS SHOWN IT WILL BE ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE IT IS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT THE USG "HAS BLACK-LISTED AIRM."

5. IN MAKING YOUR PRESENTATION TO MIN STATE WE TRUST YOU WILL TAKE CARE TO PUT THIS LETTER IN CONTEXT OF PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS REGARDING AIR MAURITANIA'S SAFETY. WE ARE CONCERNED, AS YOU ARE, THAT THIS LETTER NOT APPEAR TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS APPROACHES.

ROBINSON

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